

Outreach Program

RSPA sponsors the Cooperative Hazardous Materials Enforcement Development (COHMED) program. This outreach effort encourages partnerships among Federal, State, and local agencies, industry, associations, public interest groups, and Native American tribes. It also promotes national uniformity of regulations and enforcement activities. Through semi-annual meetings, RSPA provides a forum for these groups to meet and obtain current and relevant training in hazardous materials transportation, and discuss issues of mutual concern. For information call OHMIT (202)366-4448.

**North American
Emergency Response
Guidebook (NAERG)**

RSPA and its counterparts in Canada and Mexico publish the NAERG which addresses all hazardous materials regulated by DOT along with suggested initial response actions in the event of a hazardous materials incident (spill, explosion, fire, etc.). The NAERG is updated every three years to accommodate new products and technology. It is available from the DOT to first responders--police, fire and other emergency response personnel. The goal is to have an NAERG in every emergency response vehicle nationwide. To date, more than five million copies have been distributed to the emergency response community. The NAERG 2000 edition will be available in English, Spanish, and French.

**Hazardous Materials
Internet Website**

RSPA's Hazardous Materials Safety (HMS) Internet home page (<http://hazmat.dot.gov>) is designed to disseminate information about the agency's programs and activities and to assist in complying with the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR). The home page is updated monthly to reflect current HMS activities and includes: 49 CFR, Parts 100-185, recent rulemakings, exemptions to the HMR, letters of clarification on the HMR, upcoming public meetings and conferences, international activities, frequently requested documents and files, the 1996 NAERG, Incident Report Form DOT F 5800.1 and instructions, and Registration Program Form 5800.

Registration Program

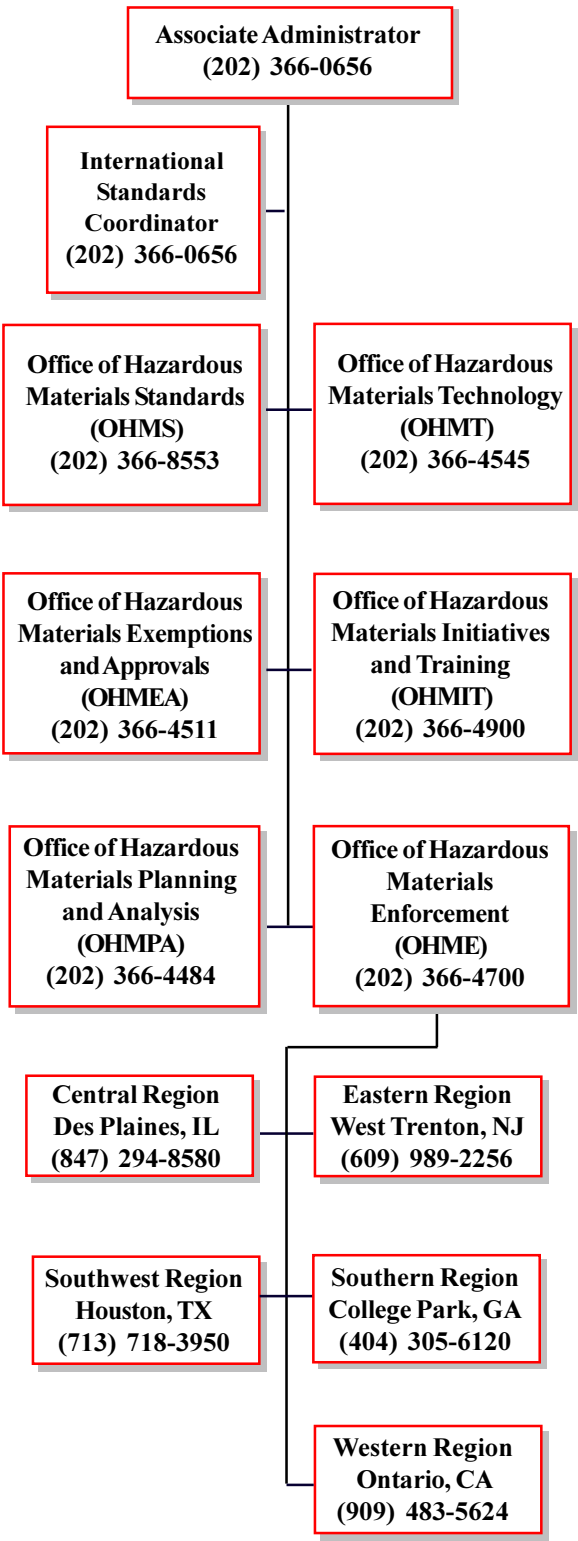
The Hazardous Materials Registration Program was established in 1992, as a result of a mandate by the Federal hazardous materials transportation law. Individuals who transport or offer for transportation certain types or quantities of hazardous materials must register annually and pay a fee to DOT. These fees fund emergency planning and training grants to states, territories, and Native American tribes. Emergency planning and training helps communities prepare for hazardous materials emergencies. For information call (202) 366-4109.

**HAZARDOUS
MATERIALS
INFO CENTER**



**1-800-467-4922
OR
(202) 366-4488**

By using our 800 telephone number, you can obtain hazardous materials transportation information and copies of rulemakings and training materials, or report alleged violations of the HMR. INFO-CENTER specialists are on duty Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM Eastern Time; however, you may call anytime, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and leave a message. They will return your call before the end of the next business day.



**HAZARDOUS
MATERIALS
SAFETY**



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY

Within the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) is responsible for coordinating a national safety program for the transportation of hazardous materials by air, rail, highway, and water. Included in this program is the responsibility for developing and issuing the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR) which are contained in Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (49 CFR).

Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety

RSPA is responsible for formulating, issuing, and revising hazardous materials regulations and exemptions under the Federal hazardous materials transportation law. The HMR covers hazardous materials definitions and classifications, hazard communications, shipper and carrier operations, and packaging and container specifications. With responsibility for enforcement of regulations, other than those applicable to a single mode of transportation, RSPA places emphasis on packaging manufacturers, retesters and reconditioners, and multimodal shippers of hazardous materials. RSPA uses risk management principles to understand, communicate, and reduce dangers inherent in hazardous materials transportation.

Hazmat Standards

The Office of Hazardous Materials Standards (OHMS) develops and issues amendments to the HMR based on requests received from the general public, industry and other government agencies; congressional mandates; rulemaking proposals from the four modal administrations; and RSPA initiatives. These proposals are evaluated to determine the need for new or amended regulations and to identify and eliminate unnecessary or burdensome regulations. Public participation is essential and is encouraged through the solicitation of comments on rulemaking proposals.

Exemptions & Approvals

The Office of Hazardous Materials Exemptions and Approvals (OHMEA) grants exemptions to the HMR and approves the performance of certain functions as provided in the HMR. Many unusual shipping situations and technological advances which are not addressed in existing regulations may be allowed on a case-by-case basis under an exemption, provided that the level of safety is equivalent to existing regulations or consistent with the public interest. Periodically, exemptions are converted to general regulations which authorize the entire regulated industry to use packagings or shipping methods previously authorized by exemptions. Approvals are granted to individuals who demonstrate that they meet requirements to perform certain functions, or that their products meet standards to be safely shipped in commerce, as set forth in the regulations.

Inspection & Enforcement

The Office of Hazardous Materials Enforcement (OHME) has six operational units: one headquarters unit and five regional offices. The OHME conducts inspections of packaging manufacturers, certifiers, retesters, and reconditioners to determine compliance with manufacturing and testing requirements, and it also conducts inspections of shippers to determine compliance with packaging, marking, labeling, and documentation requirements. The OHME tests packagings for compliance. The OHME provides assistance to and conducts joint inspections with other DOT modal administrations, other Federal agencies, and state enforcement agencies. The OHME also conducts outreach regarding compliance with the regulations.

Publications & Training

Training, outreach, and information dissemination are important responsibilities of the Office of Hazardous Materials Initiatives and Training (OHMIT). To promote compliance with hazardous materials regulations, OHMIT distributes training and information guides to private sector and government personnel. Brochures, charts, publications, training materials, videotapes, and other safety-related information are available to the public.

Hazardous materials training is provided to Federal, State, and local enforcement agencies, industry, and emergency response personnel. The major focus is on hazardous material compliance, enforcement, and emergency response. New emphasis is being placed on PC-based self-study programs through a CD-ROM modular training series. Classroom training is provided by the staff of the Transportation Safety Institute, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and at selected sites throughout the country.

Planning & Analysis

The Office of Hazardous Materials Planning and Analysis (OHMPA) supports RSPA's mission activities and identifies emerging, broad-based safety issues with emphasis on a strategic perspective. OHMPA coordinates the development of programmatic plans and accompanying budget documents. The office conducts economic, operational, and benefit-cost analyses to yield defensible regulatory and other responses to hazardous materials transportation issues.

OHMPA operates the Hazardous Materials Information System (HMIS), a computerized national database, containing comprehensive information on hazardous materials incident reports and other hazardous materials safety-related information. Access to major areas of the system is provided free to government agencies and the public through user-friendly, menu-driven programs. OHMPA has operational responsibility for both the Hazardous Materials Registration and Emergency Preparedness Grants Programs.

Technology

The Office of Hazardous Materials Technology (OHMT) provides the scientific, engineering, and risk management support for the hazardous materials transportation safety program and the development of domestic and international regulations. OHMT also serves as the focal point for domestic and international radioactive materials transportation operations and standards.

To facilitate hazardous materials transportation risk management, OHMT applies rigorous and systematic approaches to understanding the characteristics of

hazardous materials, the health problems caused by exposure, and the technology and management practices that can reduce the probability and consequences of incidents. The office conducts key investigations and research in the areas of classification, packaging, operational controls, testing, quality, risk analysis, and risk management to provide a sound basis for program operation and regulatory and non-regulatory actions.

International Activities

RSPA represents the United States in meetings of international organizations involved in the safe transportation of hazardous materials (dangerous goods) to harmonize domestic and international requirements. These include:

- The UN Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods,
- The Economic Commission for Europe Joint Meeting of European Highway and Rail Authorities,
- The International Maritime Organization,
- The International Civil Aviation Organization,
- The International Atomic Energy Agency, and
- NAFTA Working Group on Hazardous Materials Transportation.

HAZMAT PUBLICATIONS

Videos, training materials, fact sheets, newsletters, and other safety related information are available from RSPA. To obtain these materials:

FAX: (202) 366-7342

E-Mail: TRAINING@rspa.dot.gov

or Write:

U.S. Department of Transportation
Research and Special Programs Administration
400 Seventh St., SW, DHM-50
Washington, DC 20590-0001

(202) 366-2301